



# 34th Alaska State Legislature

Senate President Gary Stevens ✦ House Speaker Bryce Edgmon

State Capitol | Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 27, 2025

Sent Via Email

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick Begich  
U.S. House of Representatives  
153 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Call to Action

Dear Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Congressman Begich,

We write in our capacities as Senate President and Speaker of the House to express our deep concern with several ongoing and impending actions by the federal government that endanger the economic prosperity and social well-being of Alaskans, including:

- Threatening (if not terminating) the jobs of almost 1,400 Alaskans, about 350 of which are Veterans, simply because they are on probationary status having joined the federal workforce less than a year ago – which will result in the **loss of almost \$89 million in collective wages** – pursuant to a February 11 Executive Order signed by President Trump; and
- Threatening (if not terminating) the health insurance of about 165,000 low-income Alaskans on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program – which will result in the **loss of about \$2 billion in federal funding** – under the budget resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 25; and
- Destabilizing the state through the “trickle down” impact of the \$2 trillion in proposed federal spending cuts – which will result in a **loss of hundreds of millions, if not billions**, to our state for Bypass Mail, Head Start, SNAP, etc. – again through the House budget resolution that was passed on February 25; and
- Risking Alaska’s **\$130 million in grants allocated for energy infrastructure projects in rural Alaska** with an Executive Order that freezes funding from the federal Inflation

Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These modernization projects are life-sustaining in parts of the state where fuel can cost over \$20 per gallon.

As you know, revenue and spending are complex issues for the legislature. Our size and infancy as a state has compromised our ability to generate revenue. Consequently, the allocation of federal resources plays a critical role in the life of each Alaskan, particularly this year.

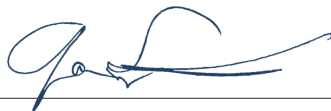
It is our duty to inform you that the legislature cannot fix the financial havoc that is being wreaked on Alaskans by the federal government. We are facing significant budget shortfalls this year and next – and costs are climbing. Alaskans pay exponentially more for gas than the rest of the country. And Alaskans have the second highest average weekly grocery bills in the nation due to our geographic isolation and dependence on imported fuel and food. As such, absorbing a \$2 billion plus reduction in the return of federal funds to our state is not an option. It is a direct threat to Alaska's future, plain and simple.

To be sure, the continued unchecked elimination of federal programs and untempered reduction in the federal workforce, which was most recently outlined in the February 26 memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Personnel and Management regarding initiatives of the Department of Government Efficiency, must end. It is having an outsized impact on our state.

We therefore call upon you to bring a reasoned approach to the unprecedented fiscal initiatives and policies that are being peppered on Alaskans with rapid fire precision by the federal government. The time to sound the alarm is over. It is time to act. Please reach across the aisle and restore the checks and balances that our founding fathers envisioned.

We stand ready to partner with you to protect our state and the 740,000 Alaskans and families who call this great state home. As the state legislature, we can do more – and will implore Governor Dunleavy and his administration to join us in addressing this looming crisis. We need a unified front and hope you will stand with us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



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Gary Stevens  
Senate President



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Bryce Edgmon  
Speaker of the House

Cc: Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska